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Letter dated 10 April 2002 from the Representatives of Croatia and Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We have the honour to forward herewith a letter signed on 10 April 2002 by Tonino Picula, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, and Goran Svilanović, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in response to Security Council resolution 1387 (2002), which calls upon the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to file bimonthly reports on the progress of their talks concerning the Prevlaka issue.

We would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council under the item entitled "The situation in Croatia".

(*Signed*) Jasna **Ognjanovac**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Republic of Croatia

(*Signed*) Dejan **Sahović**
Permanent Representative
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

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Annex to the letter dated 10 April 2002 from the Representatives of Croatia and Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We are writing to you in response to Security Council resolution 1387 (2002), which calls upon the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to file bimonthly reports to the Security Council on the progress of their talks concerning the Prevlaka issue.

As confirmed on many occasions in the reports of the Secretary-General, the situation in the demilitarized area on both sides of the border is peaceful and stable. Pursuant to the joint statement made by the two Ministers of Foreign Affairs in New York on 11 November 2001, an Interstate Diplomatic Commission has been established in order to identify — delimit the borderline and to draft a State Border Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (hereafter, the "State Border Agreement").

The Interstate Diplomatic Commission has already held two meetings (29 January, in Belgrade, and 12 March, in Zagreb), defined its rules of procedure and initiated the Protocol on the Principles for Identification — Delimitation and Drafting of the State Border Agreement. The Protocol is due to be signed during our next meeting in Belgrade on 23 April 2002.

According to the Protocol, the basis for identification — delimitation of the borderline and drafting of the State Border Agreement — is the former inter-republican boundary in the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, as it stretched between the former Socialist Republics of Croatia and Serbia, and Croatia and Montenegro. We attach great importance to the conclusion of the State Border Agreement in due course, which would strengthen our bilateral relations, as well as the security of the region.

These developments show that our Governments have made renewed efforts and shown renewed resolve in dealing with the Prevlaka issue.

We also consider that the development of good-neighbourly relations between our countries enable us to start talks as early as during our next meeting in Belgrade about a comprehensive cross-border regime. This might include demilitarization, traffic of passengers and goods, navigation, management of natural resources, especially marine resources, as well as mutual implementation monitoring mechanisms, which would eventually contribute to the successful ending of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka.

Aware of the importance of resolving this issue for strengthening peace and maintaining stability in the region, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will continue to negotiate in good faith and in an atmosphere of mutual confidence and respect.

(*Signed*) Tonino **Picula**
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

(*Signed*) Goran **Svilanović**
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia